

Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Regular Meeting ■ 7:30 PM, March 16, 2009 ■ Salem Town Offices ■ Salem, Connecticut

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM.

Present: Frank Sroka, Dana Abetti, Joe Duncan, Dave Kennedy, Sean Reith, Larry Stevens, Gloria Fogarty, Bob Ross

Absent: George Householder

2. Seating of Alternates

Larry made a motion to seat Dave Kennedy. Dana seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. Changes to Agenda

None

4. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Larry made a motion to approve the minutes, Sean seconded. The motion passed to accept the minutes with a correction to add Sean Reith as an attendee of the February meeting.

5. Communications

- Dana received an email from Anne Rowthorn advising of a future Community Garden in the village center. The specific implementation date is to be determined.
- On February 28, 2009, there was an article in The Day about Four Corners.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Reports

- First Selectman:
 - Joe Courtney's office met on March 16, to discuss possible public safety funding for the Four Corners round-about.
 - Bob asked for a volunteer to help craft an ordinance for how to handle publically advertised events. Larry offered to help.
- Liaison to Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z): Sean Reith and Gloria Fogarty
 - There is going to be a public hearing on the issues of the ARD and how much impermeable surface to allow. This will take place on March 24 at 7:00.
- Liaison to the Salem Town Center Committee (STC): Dana Abetti
 - At the next P&Z meeting, they will discuss planning a town meeting to discuss the STC.
- Liaison to the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Refresh: Dana Abetti
 - Send Dana your thoughts on the POCD categories, and for survey questions. She will consolidate and send back to the group.
- Local Business Ombudsperson: Larry Stevens
 - Maple Shade Gas Station: Aman has once again indicated he is paying too many taxes relative to the prior business and relative to other, similar businesses. Bob and the assessor have worked with him as much as possible.
 - Former pet store at Four Corners: Attorneys are reviewing the need for a site plan modification filing to use existing space.

Frank Sroka, Chair

Dana Abetti ■ Joe Duncan ■ George Householder ■ Dave Kennedy ■ Sean Reith ■ Larry Stevens

- The hunting supply store is still closing down – still no definite ETA.

8. Old Business

- EDC Budget 2008 and 2009/2010
 - We submitted our budget request for \$6,050. The Board of Finance will review this on Thursday. The town anticipates a decrease in revenue and increase in spending by approximately .36%, due in large part to insurance and health care.
- Economic Development Action Plan progress
 - Target Commercial Tax Base, Sean Reith: The numbers are changing rapidly in these economic times.
 - EDC Plan Critical Initiatives:
 - Goal 1: Take Care of Local Businesses: Sean Reith, Dave Kennedy;
 - Rejuvenate Four Corners
 - George is currently working on the invitation to invite Four Corners business owners to a meeting to discuss the round about and possible formation of a business association. Dave will send a draft of a presentation to Sean. The full EDC will review the presentation after the next meeting on April 20.
 - Goal 2: Foster New Economic Growth: Joe Duncan, Dana Abetti
 - Identify ED opportunities that fit within the Salem community –
 - This is being covered under the work associated with the POCD refresh (e.g., understanding the town's desires for EDC).
 - Process to identify and champion new business opportunities.
 - The next step is to meet with P&Z to discuss the process in a workshop-type of format. The tentative date is April 28. However, neither Larry nor Frank will be there. Dana and Joe will make appropriate plans.

9. New Business

There is a Community Builders Institute class in the evening. If three people go, others from town can attend at no additional cost.

10. Adjournment

Dana moved to adjourn the meeting. Sean seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:30.